Better Crops

The Pocket Book of Agriculture

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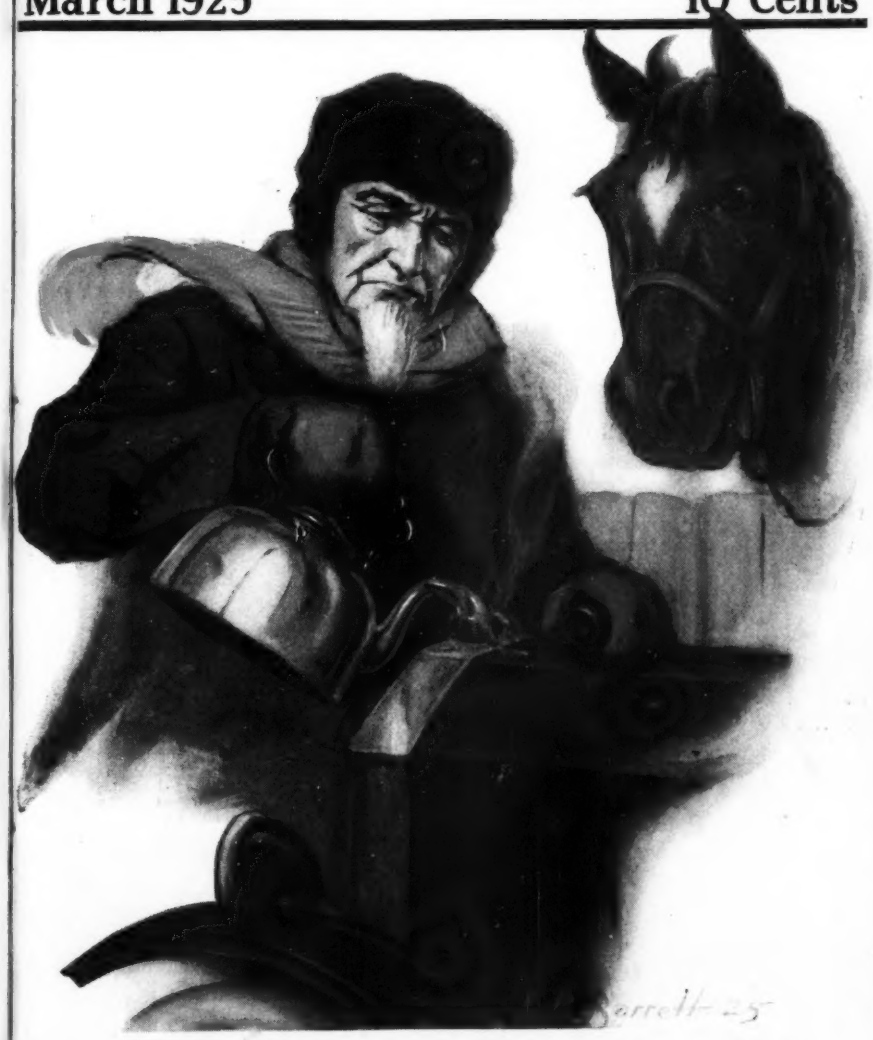

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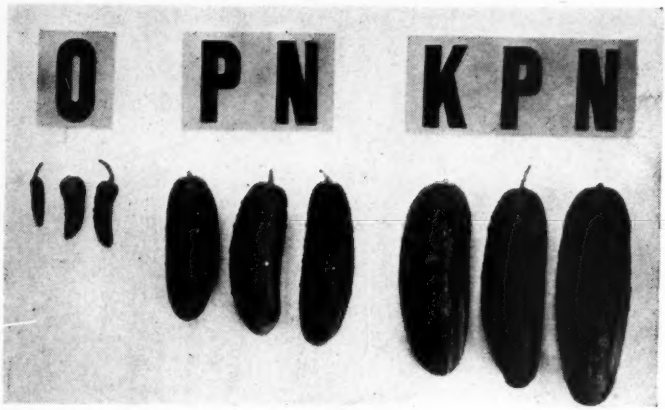

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Better Crops

The Pocket Book of Agriculture

VOLUME IV NUMBER ONE

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MANAGING EDITOR . . . . . Basil Pillard
PUBLISHER and SECRETARY . . Verneur Edmund Pratt
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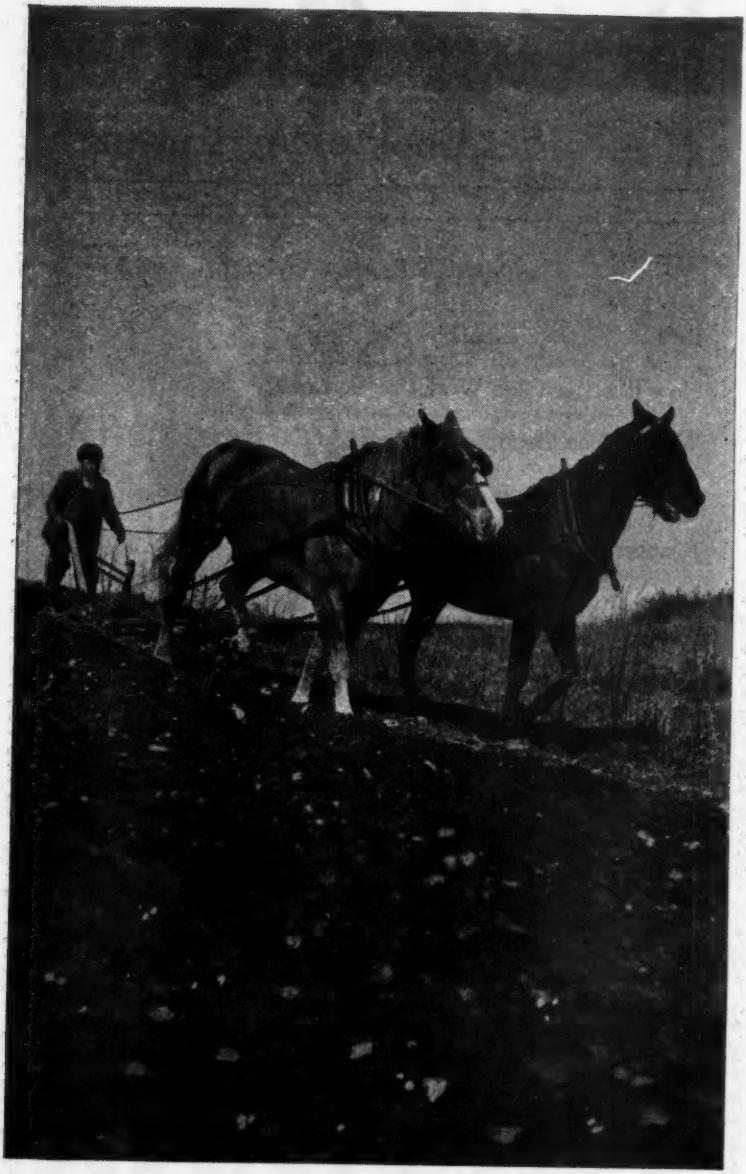
Editorial Offices: 461 Eighth Avenue, New York



Spring Plowing

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VOL. IV NEW YORK, MARCH, 1925 No. 1

¶In which Jeff tells us that we do too many things

BY PROXY

By Jeff McDermid

THERE is too much of this "proxy" business. The burden which modern civilization has placed upon us limits our ability, capacity and willingness to do for ourselves—we grow to depend too much on the other fellow.

Civilization is merely organized living—and organized living separates the tasks, doles them out piece-meal, and gives each man a single job to do, forcing him to depend upon the artisanship of others for most of his requirements.

I would not want to go back to the cave-man days when each man hunted his own food, cooked it, built his own house and fashioned his own tools.

But I believe that, in banking always on the rest of civilization for our needs, we weaken ourselves. We become so accustomed to having Gertie "get him on the phone" for us, to save our time, that we are gradually atrophying our own initiative. Is it any wonder, then, that we fall into the fallacy of thinking that, if Gertie can save a few moments of our precious day by getting a number for us, why cannot Jacob Edwards, our congressman, save our time by doing our political thinking for us?

NOT so many years ago all amusement was home-made—none could be purchased. There were, in the rural communities, no movies,

no radios, no dancing academies, no theatres. The "little club" and the petting party were undreamed of.

To have fun, folks flocked together and made it. The boy who could sing sang, and the girl who could recite gave her spiel. The popular one was he or she who could *do* something—who could originate, create, fructify and evolve a five minute entertainment upon one minute's notice. The idea of *buying* entertainment, all done up in brown paper was *anathema maranatha*—each person made his own, and contributed cheerfully to the amusement of others.

Now we press a button and flood the room with jazz. We slip a bill under the brass grilled window and see a movie. We eat at the "little club" and professional entertainers cavort and caper in a vain attempt to peel off the outer layers of our ennui.

Home fabricated fun is forgotten.

Prove it. Get a bunch together anywhere, abjure the liquid which loosens dignity from its moorings, cut the radio antennae, throw a wrench in the works of the mechanical piano, hide the copies of *Puck* and *Judge*—and see what happens!

Will the good folks entertain themselves? Answer: they will not! They will talk dully a few minutes about the latest murder, then relapse into the comatose state, slumped upon their haunches, each wishing that *someone* would *do* something, press some button or buy some new, novel, neat manner of entertainment.

THE self-entertainment cells of the cerebellum are defunct, gone, atrophied and extinct.

"Let George do it" keynotes the moment.

And because this is so, we stand in imminent danger of complete national, mental collapse.

It is the heavy, iron paw of the Frankensteinian monster called Organized Civilization pressing down and extinguishing our ability-to-do-for-ourselves.

ANY man whose hair is whitening, whose forehead bears the wrinkles of worry and who has tried to organize his business, knows how difficult it is to get anyone to do anything.

He must depend upon others to do certain things for him, if he is to reserve certain hours for thinking and planning. All of which is as it should be, and in keeping with organization practice, for business organization is simply a small scale sample of civilization—a cross-section of the universe, in which each does his task, screws the nut on Bolt No. 4, and leaves his wrench in the air when the whistle blows.

But in depending upon others, we find that the others, too, are depending upon still others, who in turn are depending upon others!

And there you come to the kernel of our trouble.

The office-boy who came home and told his mother he had a new job said he was "the doer" and, in explanation, volunteered that when the big boss pressed the button, his secretary was given something to do, and she told the chief clerk what the something was. The chief clerk ordered the bookkeeper to do it, but the bookkeeper passed the word on down to the stenographer, who turned to the office boy with a winning smile—and *he did the job*—he was "the doer."

There are too few "doers" and too many button pushers.

We are becoming too familiar with the proxy system. We even buy our prayers by proxy, depending upon the learned Rev. who spontaneously spouts splendid prayer for us, while we slip a button on the plate, heave a sigh and hope that we are innoculated with

(*turn to page 48*)

How Effective Club Work Can Be Done

By W. L. Wilkinson
County Agent, Edna, Texas

PRACTICALLY all of the fundamental principles laid down by the Extension Department of the A. & M. College of Texas for community up-building were brought out in this year's well rounded program in the Deutschburg Community of Jackson County, Texas. The community leaders played an important part. The club leaders had their duties to perform. The club boys and girls were a necessary factor. Our District Agents and Extension Specialists were used to advantage. It was necessary to have both the County and Home Demonstration Agents.

And it took the following logical plan to put the work over:—We first made an analysis of the community. Then we made a program of work. Then at a community meeting the program and its purposes were explained and adopted; and finally with enough individuals sufficiently interested in the place in which they live to give time and thought to the program we were able to carry out the work with the Holland $1,000.00 Contest to spur us on we went forward to success and to victory.

In answer to a letter written early in the Spring of 1924 by one of the leaders of the Deutschburg Community asking us to come down and help them line up plans for their year's work, we called on three of the leading citizens and with them made an analysis of the

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Members of the Deutschburg Community Joint Club with W. L. Wilkinson, County Agent, at left and Miss Hazel Allen, Home Agent, at right.

Counting boll weevils in Spanish moss. There are two tons of moss in the pile collected from 15 plantations

Weevils You Count—Weather You Can't

By C. E. Gapen
U. S. Department of Agriculture

¶Scientists are trying to get a line on what the weevil will do this year.

IN the South the emergence of the cotton boll weevil receives much more attention than the emergence of the groundhog receives anywhere, and this is as it should be, for Mr. B. Weevil casts a bigger shadow any day in the year than all the groundhogs in the world. He has cast a persistent, dismal umbra over almost the entire cotton belt. The United States Department of Agriculture has made a special study of the emergence of this insect, and every spring estimates are made of the relative numbers of the pests to expect as the foundation stock to start the production of the hordes which annually ravish the fields.

The methods employed by the entomologists to determine the probable emergence of weevils are simplicity itself, yet they are interesting and the results have proved to be of value to the cotton grower.

Sometime in March the Govern-

ment gets out its first statement on the boll weevil prospects for the season. It is based on a count of the live and dead weevils in Spanish moss which is collected in small quantities here and there on fifteen selected plantations in northern Louisiana. The moss is a favorite hibernating cover for the insects. About two tons of the moss is collected and sent in to the station maintained by the Bureau of Entomology at Tallulah, Louisiana, where it is gone over bit by bit and all the weevils counted. By comparison with the number of live weevils found in preceding years, and taking in account what happened later, it is possible to get some idea of what may happen if the weather conditions during the summer are favorable or unfavorable to the bug.

LAST year the count of live weevils in the moss was very low, indicating that the enemy of the cotton fields would start out at a disadvantage. But the entomologists warned that such reports should not lull growers into a sense of security so that they would do nothing to fight the weevil. On the other hand, they said the condition offered a good opportunity for the industrious farmer who would put up a fight to raise a good and profitable crop. You see, weather conditions may turn out to be so good for the health of the pest as to make a few of them increase enormously unless precautions are taken.

But last year weather conditions turned out to be good for the planter instead of favorable for the weevil. The cold snap in the winter which reduced the ranks of the hibernators was followed by a dry, sunny summer. The weevil is not a dry advocate, so he suffered, and it was not such a big job for planters to grow a good crop. Many of the growers, as a result, have developed a false sense of security, thinking the tide has finally turned against the insect.

The second report on weevil emergence comes out early in May, and for this the scientists make elaborate preparations. At the Tallulah station they have about

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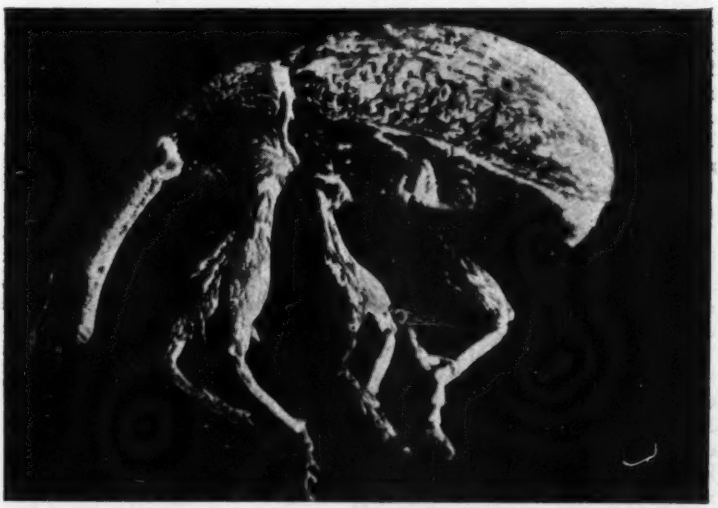

A boll weevil greatly enlarged, but he looks even bigger to the southern planter

CORN CHAMPION
Tells How He Won
SUCCESS

By J. C. Allen

(The application of sound principles brought this corn grower record breaking returns.

J. D. HULL of Columbus, Indiana, newly elected President of the Indiana Corn Growers' Association, also won Grand Champion Ribbon on ten ears of Johnson County White corn at the Indiana State Corn Show held in connection with the Agricultural Conference at Purdue University, January 12-16.

In telling of his experience Mr. Hull said: "The ten ear sample of Johnson County White Dent corn, which won Grand Champion Sweepstakes for me at the 1925 State Corn Show, was produced only after several years of untiring effort. This corn was grown on bottom overflow land along Flatrock river, Flatrock Township, Bartholomew County, about five miles north of Columbus, Indiana. The land in this part of our county is what is called Hawpatch soil, a sandy loam soil underlaid with gravel. The river bottom land is black loam with a sand mixture. We can raise better corn on this land when there is plenty of moisture, therefore this past season has been more to our liking for a good crop rather than a dry year would have been, although we had too much rain at the planting period this year.

"The field on which this corn was grown contained about twenty acres on the lowest parts of which the corn drowned out causing the entire field to average only 77 bushels which is below the average obtainable on this land under fair conditions. (I have entered the five acre corn club three different times with yields of 100.6 bu., 103.3 bu. and 92.5 bu. per acre.) The field was plowed the latter part of April. After several rains had fallen on the plowed field it was not necessary to do a lot of work to obtain a firm seed bed. A drag once over and spike-toothed harrow twice over the field before the planter was all that was necessary to prepare a splendid seed bed. The planting was done on May 11th and 12th. A heavy rain fell soon after and continued wet weather caused a delay in cultivating. The field was first rolled, next harrowed with a spike-toothed harrow, then plowed with single row cultivators reasonably deep once and three times later on about one week apart and not very deep.

"On soil that is not easily packed I like to use the roller between the first and second cultivation and on

dry seasons after the second cultivation. My planter is set for 3 feet and 2 inches between the rows, and on rich soil corn is drilled 18 inches in the row and on less productive soil I drill 24 to 26 inches apart in the row. The reason I like this width of rows is that the average one row cultivator will stir the dirt over the entire space between the rows. Also when drilling wheat with the small drill in the corn, very little land is wasted where the corn row has been, and it makes it possible for the discs on the wheat drill to be spaced at a more desirable distance apart, approximately seven inches.

"TWELVE years ago I became interested in the production of better corn and all seed I have used for the last eight years has been tested for disease as well as germination. The type of ear and kernel of my choice is in strict accord with the Indiana type as recommended by the Indiana Corn Growers' Association. I have attended the short course at Purdue University for several years and took the special course in corn judging for three years before I obtained a judges' certificate. My recent winnings were only possible with the knowledge I obtained at those short courses even though I might have grown a good yield of corn without it.

"In all experiments I have tried I have found commercial fertilizer to give good results especially on soil of the average fertility. Of the several tests I have made on fertilizing corn my most successful method was an application of 80 pounds per acre of a factory mixed 2–12–4 fertilizer in the row, but not in direct contact with the seed and another application of 150

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J. D. Hull and his prize-winning corn.

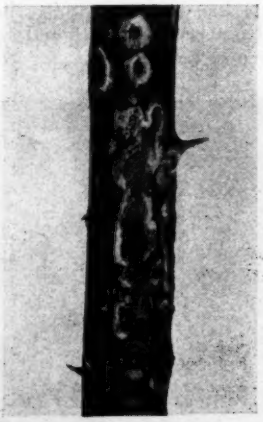
Raspberry *and its*

By C. E. Baker

Purdue University Agricultural Experiment Station

DURING the last decade black raspberry culture in the United States has been on a marked decline and in some sections where raspberries were profitably grown in former years, there is no longer the slightest trace of a once thriving industry. One cause stands out, far above all others, for the failure of profitable raspberry growing. That is the dread disease that is present wherever black raspberries are grown—anthracnose.

So severe have been the ravages of this disease in the past ten years that some states have reported as great a decrease in acreage as 80%. Other states report an annual loss of 25% to 50% of the berry crop, due directly to the effects of this disease alone.



Typical anthracnose lesions on a raspberry cane. At this stage the spots are gray or whitish with reddish purple margin. (Courtesy Purdue Exp. Sta.)

Comparatively few growers have realized the damage being done by anthracnose, due to the fact that in many cases the loss comes through the weakening of the plant, rather than as a direct attack upon the fruit. The effect of this disease is especially noticeable in dry weather, and consequently the weather often receives the blame and the grower takes his loss and hopes for better luck next time. During the past few years progressive growers have been realizing that all is not well with their plantations, and are seeking further knowledge regarding the cause of their failure.

Raspberry anthracnose is a fungous disease of wide distribution, being common throughout Europe, Australia and America. As it is found everywhere on wild raspberries, it was probably universally distributed before the commercial varieties of raspberries were introduced. While occasionally found, also, on blackberries, dewberries, purple-cane raspberries and red raspberries, the black-caps generally bear the brunt of the attack. Although there is some difference in comparative varietal susceptibility, this is not sufficient to serve as a control measure, for no variety is known to be entirely immune to the disease.

Anthracnose first appears in the spring, as small reddish or purplish, slightly raised spots on the young

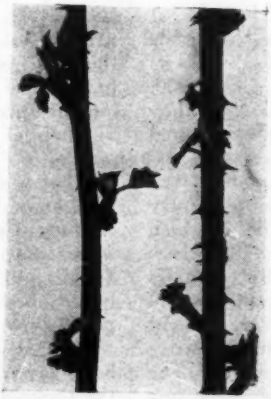
Anthracnose *Control*

¶The best methods of combating a disease which has caused incalculable damages.

growing canes. As the infected cane continues to grow the anthracnose spots enlarge, becoming oval in shape. The centers soon become gray or whitish, outlined with a purplish margin. Later they become sunken and tiny cracks appear on the cane. Sometimes several of these spots run together and often in the cases of a heavy infection, near the base of the cane, the latter is girdled and killed. This often takes place just before the fruit ripens and the small dried up fruit is wrongly attributed to the effect of unfavorable weather conditions.

Anthracnose lesions also occur on leaves and individual fruiting spurs when the infection is heavy.

This disease lives over winter in the one year old canes and about the time the new shoots are beginning to grow the following spring, spores are formed in the old lesions and spread by rain and other means to the young succulent growth of the young canes. In this manner disease is carried over from year to year in the old patch.



Young raspberry canes in the correct stage for receiving the delayed dormant anthracnose spray. Notice the anthracnose lesions on the cane at the left. (Courtesy Purdue Exp., Sta.)

How then, does the disease get into the new patch when there are no wild berries or any apparent source of infection near?

Black raspberries are propagated from the rooted tips of canes that grew the previous season. When the new plants are dug it is the general practice to leave a few inches of this old growth upon the plant for a "handle." The plant is set with this old growth projecting above the ground and in a large majority of cases this old growth contains anthracnose lesions. Consequently the grower is unknowingly planting a source of infection right beside his new plant and giving it every possiblity to pass on the disease to a majority of the plants in the new bed. As the new shoot springs out of the ground, the first rain carries a host of anthracnose spores from the old stub to the new shoot and another plant contracts the disease.

Therefore, the first step in an-

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Prices and the Farm Problem

By Claud F. Clayton

Agricultural Economist

Will rising prices solve our agricultural troubles? "No," says Mr. Clayton emphatically and he shows why. You'll find food for thought here.

Of course, we hear most about the "farm problem" in periods of agricultural depression, such as we have experienced since 1920. In periods such as this (and they are recurrent) attention is centered on farm relief measures, the assumption being, apparently, that the great problem before the country is to ameliorate the conditions which especially beset farmers, as a class.

Usually what actually results is this. There is widespread agitation. Programs for farm relief are brought forward. Proposals for legislative action are in the foreground. The virtues of cooperative marketing are extolled. In the midst of the general palaver, a national election usually occurs, into which the prevalent discontent of a large section of the voting population injects a flavor of uncertainty as to the choice of Dick or Harry, the opposing candidates for office, which adds greatly to the newspaper possibilities of the situation. The ingenious reporter is able to work out surprising combinations, possibilities, upsets, to supply the dramatic suspense demanded by the reader of the Sunday supplement. Interest in a crisis which is a national calamity, carrying ruin to thousands in its course, degenerates to the level of speculation concerning the specious issues involved in a kind of national cross word puzzle.

What is done about farm relief? You know the answer. Someone, cleaning out the family garret, comes across a copy of Samuel Smiles, out of which he drags a bright, brand new idea which he proceeds to unload on a suffering world. It is this: the farmer must help himself. Is that all? No; the thought takes hold. It grows. If the idea works, it's good. No pragmatist denies that. Does it work? Observe it work.

From 1910 to 1920 the prices of farm products compared with non-agricultural products—taking the average prices from 1910 to 1914, the five pre-war years, as a basis for the comparison—showed an approximate parity between the two.

In 1918 and 1919, after this country had become a belligerent, it is true that farm products rose more rapidly than non-agricultural

products, due to rapidly increasing cost and heavy demand. But then came the slump in 1920. Conditions were worse in 1921. They were not much better in 1922 and bad enough in 1923. Note now how the formula begins to work. True, the ratio of prices of farm products to non-agricultural prices was 69 in 1921 and only 78 in 1923, but the trend, observe, makes a steady improvement. In January, 1924, the ratio was 82. It had moved up to 86 in October and the upward trend continues strong.

WHAT is the sequel to all of this? The answer you get is that the "self help" formula has vindicated itself. The farmer is curing himself of the thing which afflicted him. The little sparrows of optimism begin to twitter and chirp, while they hop about picking up the frugal seed of their endeavors. Things really are coming out all right. That swollen and inflamed member of the body politic, the farmer, throbs less violently. Of course, the problem of relief is still with us, but not in that acute and painful form which threatened to drag the limping citizenry to the polls in a spirit somewhat too recalcitrant and vindictive to suit the proper purposes for which elections are held.

Possibly you have not sensed the hymn of thanksgiving that now sounds through the press at this happy turn of a right messy state of affairs. The tune is taken up rather tentatively, it is true, so that the congregation may not get ahead of the choir, but the volume increases steadily to that ultimate and inevitable crescendo where farm product prices achieve parity with the prices of other goods.

"Is not this, then, a consummation devoutly to be desired?" inquires a pompous person on my left. There you are. It most emphatically is not. Allow me to explain. I am not saying that it is not desirable that either farm product prices rise relatively, or that other products fall relatively. Not only is this desirable, but such an adjustment, one way or the other, is inevitable.

To borrow the phraseology of my questioner, the consummation which I strongly object to is the prevalent assumption that a rise in farm prices represents any sort of a solution of the farm problem.

This slump in prices, followed by recovery and renewed "prosperity," is, of course, a commonplace phenomenon in our industrial history. The real problem involved in the recent agricultural depression, therefore, is not touched by the appearance of rising prices. To assume that the farm problem is relieved by the appearance of high prices is like assuming that a caterpillar pest is destroyed by the appearance of butterflies.

The rise of prices is but one phase of the "life cycle" of the economic microbe from which the farmer periodically suffers. Our problem, then, is to isolate this microbe, study its life history, and combat the disease.

Is this, then, a farmers' problem exclusively? Certainly not. It is a national problem. The important thing is that we do not allow the upward swing of prices which, apparently, is before us to develop an illusion of health, when, in fact, the phenomenon of rising prices is at the very root of the disease.

But the phenomenon of the "business cycle" is not restricted to the farmer. Why must the whole country turn wet nurse for agriculture every few years, while other industries appear to obtain enough provender to subsist, at least, without quite so much hullabuloo?

CERTAIN observations suggest themselves in connection with this question:

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JARDINE Comes Back Home

By Ted Butlar

BETTER CROPS' Washington Correspondent

WILLIAM JARDINE, who came to the Federal Department of Agriculture in 1907 as assistant cerealist after putting in several years as a Montana "cow puncher" and then left in 1910 to continue his agricultural career with distinction in the state of Kansas, came back to Washington on March 4th. This time he returned as the Secretary of Agriculture having been appointed by President Coolidge from a list of 200 candidates to assume the agricultural portfolio which was left vacant when Howard M. Gore returned to West Virginia as Governor.

Needless to say the Department of Agriculture gave its new Chief a spontaneous reception on his arrival in Washington. To most Department workers he was received as "Mr. Secretary," but to a small group of his former associates he will be known as "Bill." His choice has been given universal approval, and there is complete consensus of opinion that he will give the agricultural department a sympathetic and positive adminstration.

Secretary Jardine's training in agriculture has been broad, and because of his great energy it has been intensive as well. He is a trained, experienced, scientific farmer, and is an eminent authority on dry-land farming and cereals. He knows farmers and he knows agriculture because he has been intimately associated with both. He is no believer in the miraculous power of legislation to improve farming conditions and, although, he insists that the Federal government must extend every legitimate service, at the same time he recognizes that the farmer to a great extent must work out his own salvation. He is credited with the statement that 90 per cent of the agricultural difficulties must be worked out "back home." But if the time arrives when it is felt the Government should extend relief to the farmer through legislation of a constructive nature, Secretary Jardine will be out in the front rank fighting for it in a positive fashion.

BORN 46 years ago in the Malad Valley of Idaho of Scotch-Welsh ancestry, the new Secretary spent the first few years of his life on his father's ranch where he performed the usual rigorous duties of a ranch hand. He "punched cattle," broke broncos for 25 cents each, and attended the district school three or four months each winter. During his entire lifetime schooling was secured under trying circumstances, consequently his education has been permanent and of the practical kind.

He left his father's farm when 17 years of age and went to the Big Hole Basin area in Montana where he earned his first "salary"

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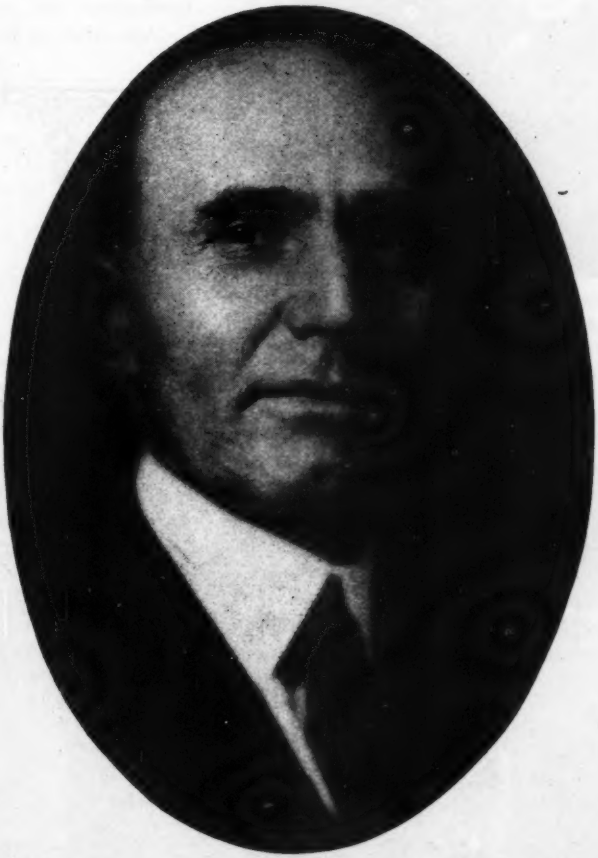
Better Crops' ART GALLERY of the month



Welcome to William Jardine, the new Secretary of Agriculture! His career is described in the article on the opposite page by Ted Butlar.

Leon Estabrook, the distinguished statistician of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Mr. Estabrook for the past two years has been loaned to the Argentine Republic to develop crop reporting and statistical methods there. Now he has been appointed Director of the World Census of Agriculture by the International Institute of Agriculture in Rome.

Purdue Horticulture judging team that won first in the judging contest recently held at Columbus, Ohio. From left to right:—W. B. Yates (alternate), R. F. Hennis, D. A. Sherwood, O. J. Heacock, O. G. Anderson, coach. The team identified and judged 20 classes (60 plates) of apples, making 11,118 points out of a possible 12,000.

Neglected Hints *on* Soil Feeding

By H. *Thurston*

¶Much can be learned from observation of our every day experiences.

OLD FATHER NILE is one of the most astute farmers in the world. His farm is a narrow strip of alluvial land extending for hundreds of miles through the heart of Egypt. Take away that farm and there would be no Egypt.

Father Nile has always been a great believer in high fertilizing. He has been practicing that for thousands of years. He has established on his farm a system of permanent agriculture. It consists of putting into that soil every year an abundance of plant food. Abundantly-fed lands produce abundantly, under right conditions of heat and moisture.

Father Nile, ever since man has known him, has been gathering plant food elements in the rainy regions of Africa and has been carrying them thousands of miles to enrich his farm. The rains have helped him dig the potash and the phosphates from the soil and the nitrogen from decaying vegetation. He is annually distributing these on his farm, where grow the enormous crops to feed a nation.

EGYPT is the one land where the soil robber has not been able to impoverish the soil. This is because old Nile puts into the soil every year as much plant food as can be taken out by the crops.

It is a wonder to me that men have been so slow to take the hint given by this old farmer.

The whole world must turn to doing what Father Nile has been doing so long. Onto the farm lands of the world must go annually as much plant food as is removed in all the crops and animals grown. Then only will the world have a permanent system of agriculture.

As the agricultural world has been slow to see the lesson illustrated by Egypt, so we Americans have been slow to draw conclusions from the many home-demonstrations in supplying the needs of plants.

WHEN I was a boy on the home farm there was one ridge in a timothy field where the grass grew so thin that it was hardly worth cutting. It was determined to spread on that ridge all the hard wood ashes made during fall, winter and spring. This was done; and when we cut that field in July the grass on that ridge was so rank that we had to carry a large part of it into another part of the field to find room for drying it.

The logical thing to do would have been to buy potash for treating the other fields where the grass

was thin, as it was the potash in the ashes that had caused the increases in crop. The lime in the ashes might have been credited if the crop had been clover instead of timothy. I can safely assert that had the hint been taken, the hay yield of that farm would have been doubled.

At that time also it was the custom to burn a pile of brush over the area that was to be planted to cucumbers; for the sake of the potash in the ashes. Yet none of the people I then knew thought far enough to buy potash for use on other land.

There was one grass field that was low and swampy. We drained it and manured it; but it never seemed to respond to manure as did the fields on higher ground. We could not understand the reason then; but I do now. It was because barnyard manure carries only about one-half per cent of potash; and it would have required an immense amount of manure to supply the potash needed by that particular field. We ought to have known that this field needed potash from our experiences on the pieces of land where we had burned brush to help the cucumbers.

IN twenty-five years I have visited farms and experiment stations in many states. The one need that has impressed me above all others is the need of making sure that there is enough available plant food in the soil to produce the biggest possible crop in the shortest possible time.

The time required to grow a crop is shortest if there is an abundance of all kinds of plant food in the soil. A few years ago much of the corn in the Middle West failed to harden before frost took it. I noticed then that the fields that had been freely fertilized, and which were well supplied with nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash, were the ones that yielded good corn. One Wisconsin farmer, the only one in his township to use commercial fertilizers, told me he was the only man in the township that had any hard corn. Yet most of these farmers knew of experiments in crop feeding and also knew that underfed crops means late crops,—probably always.

A Flock of Southdown sheep at the U. S. Morgan Horse Farm, Middlebury, Vt. This is one of the most picturesque of all Government experimental farms which are to be found in various parts of the country.

A Tribute to Common People

By E. W. Howe

ONE of the brightest men known in history is Thomas H. Huxley. He not only had the advantage of a complete education, but a huge mind. In the world's list of brainy, scholarly men, Huxley was possibly one of the first dozen. He was a famous scientist; which means that he fairly and accurately investigated many things, and was accepted as an authority by thousands of workers in the same field. This man did not share the notion that the people are mainly fools, and once wrote the most generous tribute ever paid them. He said: "The longer I live the more I am disposed to think that there is much less either of pure folly or of pure wickedness in the world than is generally supposed. When I have brought to the inquiry the patience and long-suffering which becomes a scientific investigator, the most unpromising specimens have turned out to have a good deal to say for themselves from their own point of view. And sometimes calm reflection has taught the humiliating lesson that their point of view was not so different from my own as I had fondly imagined. Comprehension is more than half way to sympathy, here as elsewhere." ¶I was thinking it over just now, and do not believe any man ever coaxed me to do wrong. On the contrary, all my life I have been within hearing of loud declarations from men of the importance of good behavior. I never pick up a book or newspaper that the same thing does not stare me in the face. I have made many mistakes, but believe every one was the result of accepting my own judgment in defiance of much good advice from men and I have associated mainly with the common people: workmen, farmers, small tradesmen. ¶We like to say, "Society is rotten." I do not see much rottenness, I think the people are rather well behaved, considering everything. The "awful rottenness" we talk about is exaggerated, and refers to only a few. When we truthfully consider what we actually know of each other, we must admit that people restrain themselves pretty well. I know a few tough stories to be true; but only a few. The great bulk of the people I have known flirt with sin occasionally, but when it comes to engaging in the higher walks of it, they are afraid; we have been whipped into a good deal of order.

Meet LAREDO!

By H. C. *Appleton*
Georgia State College of Agriculture

¶Soy beans have had a sensational career in recent years. Mr. Appleton tells the story of one of these newcomers that has decidedly made good.

THE Laredo soybean has had an interesting history since its introduction to America. Whether for the best or not, the course of the Laredo since its introduction has been somewhat spectacular.

Several years ago seed of this variety were obtained by the United States Department of Agriculture from Yangping, China. In 1917 seed were distributed to certain Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations. At this time the variety was designated by the number S. P. I. 40658, and was not known as Laredo.

Now appears one of the interesting and amusing incidents of its history in the United States. At several of the Colleges and experiment stations the seeds sent out by the Department were either misplaced and not planted at all, or they were planted and the results of the first year's trial did not indicate that the Laredo was a variety of any special promise, so it was dropped from the variety tests. Agronomists at some stations, on seeing the wild bullish market for Laredoes develop in other states, laughingly chided the Department Officials for not letting them in on the good thing. They were, of course, somewhat chagrined to learn that they had been supplied with the seed, but at the time Laredo sailed along under the not very striking designation of S.P.I. 40658.

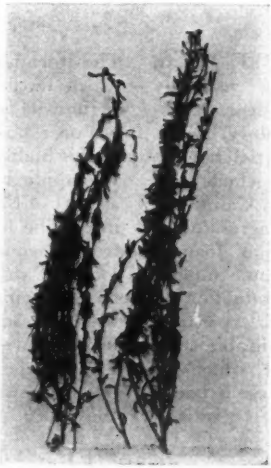
The attention they failed to get at other stations was certainly bestowed on them at the Georgia State College of Agriculture. And why shouldn't it have been? A soybean variety yielding at the rate of 37 bushels of grain and 2.70 tons of hay per acre would not likely be discarded without further trial at any place. Such was the yield the first year at the Georgia College. In the Georgia tests it has not again equaled the first year's yield, but it has proved to be an excellent and consistent yielder of grain and hay. Year in and year out it has done well. It has been ranked slightly by two other varities in yield of grain, but neither of these can be considered really good varieties for hay production.

The Mississippi Station Officials were favorably impressed by the performance of the Laredo. After testing it for several years at their Station and Sub-stations they felt that it could be given their stamp of approval, and could be recommended to the farmers of Mississippi. They make a special point of its adaptability to wet lands in the Delta. Accounts of the performance in the Delta and the unusual demand for seed in that section surely indicate that the

Laredo has not been a disappointment.

IN 1920 or perhaps before that time small quantities of seed had reached the hands of farmers. No one had many, but those who had any hoarded them as if they had been gold. And some of these early growers did reap a golden harvest when they multiplied the small handfulls with which they started into a crop measured in bushels. 1922 seemed to be the year that the wild scramble for seed began, and this scramble has continued unabated up to the present. When the supply will catch up with the demand is still problematical.

In 1922 one grower sold seed at the rate of one dollar per quart. He thought this was rank profiteering, and that surely some evil would come to him for taking such an advantage of his fellowman. Imagine how much like a piker he felt when the next year, with Laredo seed much more plentiful, they sold at a higher rate, even when sold in lots of a bushel or more.



Two mature Laredo soy bean plants from which the leaves have been stripped to show the seed pod.

The crop of 1922 began to move in the fall at ten to fifteen dollars per bushel. There was no semblance of a market price, no one seemed to know what price to set on them. Some named a price of ten dollars, all the while believing that such a price was so outrageously high that no one would pay it. They were surprised to find that such a price brought a perfect deluge of orders. By the early spring of 1923 those who had sold at ten dollars per bushel had come to regret their hasty actions of the preceding fall. Laredo beans were now all out of the hands of those who considered them to be worth no more than ten to fifteen dollars per bushel. Now, anyone who wanted to buy them had to pay prices that ranged from twenty to thirty-five dollars per bushel. There was still no market price; the only way one could get a supply of seed was to find someone who had bought them for his own use and begin making offers gradually raising the offer until the temptation to make a quick and easy profit became too great for the owner of the seed to resist. A rumor, that the writer was unable to verify, had it that one bushel was traded around from one to another until it finally brought a price of more than forty dollars. Verily it was a bullish market.

Even with purchasing seed at almost unheard of prices most of the people who grew a crop of Laredoes in 1923 made money. To begin with, each bushel of seed was made to plant ten to twelve acres, and in some cases even more. The yields obtained ran all the way from five to thirty bushels per acre. Ten to twelve bushels per acre seemed to have been the most common yields. Eight and ten dollars per bushel was the price offered in the fall. Gradually the price worked up to $12.50, at which price the greater part of the crop was sold. Then the antics of the preceding year were repeated; prices went to fifteen and twenty dollars per bushel. It is doubtful as this is being written (June) if any

(*turn to page 35*)

A Remarkable Potato Crop

¶This remarkable achievement has aroused universal interest. This account is republished from the American Fertilizer of February 21, by permission.

A REMARKABLE potato crop was grown last year by Frederick H. Rindge, near Stockton, San Joaquin County, Calif. Mr. Rindge's potato patch consisted of 1,500 acres, which is a good-sized field even in California. It is part of the 250,000 acres known as the delta of the San Joaquin River, which has become famous for the large-scale production of potatoes, onions, beans, asparagus, celery and other profitable field crops. The soil is peat, which has been reclaimed, and is irrigated from beneath, that is, by raising the water in the ditches to the desired height.

There were six varieties of potatoes planted, but the best proved to be the "Burbank," developed by the famous California botanist. The yield of a carefully surveyed acre was 962½ bushels, and four surveyed acres averaged 937 bushels. No previous American record has approached this remarkable accomplishment. Yields of about 700 bushels have been reported from Maine, and from Nevada County, Calif. The previous world's record is believed to have been held by Great Britain, where 896 bushels were dug from a surveyed acre.

The peat soil of the delta, formed by decaying vegetable matter, is high in nitrogen, and does not need any nitrogenous fertilizer. The formula used was 0–21–21, which fertilizer men will recognize as unusually high grade, even for use on a peat soil. A ton per acre of this highly concentrated fertilizer was applied broadcast in February, as part of the preparation for planting. The fertilizer was distributed from wagons by a broadcasting device, the wagons preceded by a disc harrow being drawn across the field by a tractor. Another tractor-drawn harrow, with the discs set at a sharper angle, followed, thoroughly mixing the fertilizer with the soil.

THE report states that 36 bushels of seed per acre were planted. If this is correct, uncut potatoes of good size must have been used. The seed was chemically treated in the usual way prior to planting, but no spraying or other treatment was given the growing vines. Harvesting was with the usual mechanical diggers, both tractor and horse drawn.

The production cost of the crop was nearly $200 an acre, but as the whole tract yielded between 500 and 600 bushels of merchantable potatoes per acre, the net return was quite satisfactory to the owner. It is a well-known fact that peat soil requires special treatment. The methods of these delta farmers cannot be applied to ordinary farm land, whether it be fertile or im-

poverished. But the delta farmers of the San Joaquin valley, whose crops sell for $45,000,000 a year, have learned how to grow full crops —something a majority of farmers do not know. There is land in northern Ohio and in Illinois, to mention only two localities convenient to good markets, where the production could be doubled, and the profits more than doubled, by simply adopting the San Joaquin method of using a ton of fertilizer per acre.

NOTE:—Although it is claimed that this is the world's record potato crop, according to Dr. W. Stuart in the Potato News Bulletin, that record is held by W. J. S. Sturgis of Buffalo, Wyoming. In a contest conducted by The American Agriculturist in 1890, he raised 974.8 bushels on an accurately measured acre of land. Nevertheless, Mr. Rindge's is a remarkable achievement.

Soft Corn Feeding Test

By G. L. Winright

County Agent

The soft corn problem has been especially interesting during the fall and winter to those farmers who were obliged to buy and also land owners who had their share for sale, and as no definite information was available on the subject, arrangements were made with a farmer in McCook county to conduct a feeding experiment with sorted corn, using the soft corn for one bunch of hogs and the sound corn for the other pen.

The corn used in the experiment made a field run of 50% soft and the remaining half was sound corn. A sample of the sound corn graded No. 3 at the local elevator and was worth $1.10 at that time. The soft corn was no grade stuff and was worth about 1c. lb. to feeders.

The method of procedure and results are shown in table below:—

A summary of the table shows that 2 pounds of No. 3 corn equals approximately 3 pounds of soft "no grade" corn and that pork was produced at a cost of $9.10 cwt. with the soft corn figured at 1c. per pound or the No. 3 corn at $1.10 per bushel.

According to these results corn running half merchantable and half soft has a feeding value of 87½c. per 70-pound bushel with pork at $9.10 or 180-lb. to 200-lb. hogs which was the price at the time this experiment was conducted.

Present market conditions give the feeder an additional gain on the original 150 pounds weight, due to the fact that there is an over supply of light weight hogs on the market and the price is favorable to heavier hogs.

	No. 3 Corn	Soft, No Grade
Number of hogs fed	7	7
Average weight of each	152 lbs.	151.5 lbs.
Average weight after 10 days feeding	171 lbs.	169 lbs.
Average Daily gain per hog	1.9 lbs.	1.75 lbs.
Lbs. corn consumed per hog per day	11.43 lbs.	16 lbs.
No. lbs. corn to make 1 lb. pork	6.0 lbs.	9.1 lbs.

The Editor'

ARE FARMERS PEOPLE?

"The farmer wants a higher tariff on agricultural products." "The farmer will not stand for any governmental interference in his work." "The farmer is naturally conservative and will always resist scientific advance in agriculture."

I offer these as specimens of a type of thinking and talking, that all of us indulge in at one time or another, but that can become a foolish and dangerous habit if persisted in.

Generalizations have their uses at times but, when anyone goes to the lengths indicated in the above quotations, he needs a sharp reminder of the fact that he is getting dangerously near to falsehood.

This method of generalizing about the farmer always makes me wonder about the mental processes of the speaker or writer. He seems to regard farmers as a kind of animal or insect. You can observe a cow or a mosquito and from its actions make a number of generalizations that apply to all cows or all mosquitoes. But when you start doing that with human beings, particularly with their mental processes, you head straight for trouble.

I go into one county, let us say, and hear a lot of complaints about the county agent. Am I, therefore, correct in announcing to the country that "The farmer is disgusted with county agent work and it should be abolished?"

Absurd! you say, but I have known a number of people who used just that kind of logic. People who have superficial minds do it on all sorts of topics and somehow the farmer seems to be the goat for more of it than any other class.

Farmers are not cattle who move in a herd. They are people, and as people they comprise all shades of intelligence, temperament, opinion and habits. Let us remember that when we start to talk about what "the farmer" wants or does not want, or likes or dislikes. Generalizations are usually a substitute for accurate thinking and expression. Never trust generalizations—not even this one.

IS SCIENCE OUR SLAVE OR OUR MASTER?

I have been reading some books lately that I should like to recommend to your attention. They are not directly connected with agriculture, but they are concerned with problems that touch everyone of us. They are two small books which cost only a dollar a piece and they present two different views on the future of science particularly in its relation to mankind.

The first is called "Daedalus" and is by a distinguished biologist, J. R. S. Haldane. The second is "Icarus," by a mathematician and philosopher, Bertrand Russell. Mr. Haldane is generally optimistic about the future of science. He sees it as a great liberating, progressive force in human civilization. Mr. Russell takes the opposite view and pictures mankind as enslaved and perhaps destroyed by science.

This is a big subject and it grows more important as time goes on. These books do not cover the subject completely, but they certainly provide food for thought. Does science control us or do we control it? Think it over and read these books before you give your answer.

Jeff McDermid

Three New Booklets of Interest to You

As part of our educational work we are issuing a series of booklets on various crops. The purpose of these booklets is to show by facts and figures how proper fertilization brings the farmer a greater income both through increased yield and improved quality.

Each booklet has been written by an authority in the field who is in touch with the latest reliable information on the subject. This information has been presented in a popular, readable form with numerous illustrations of actual results. The following booklets are now available for distribution.

BETTER TOBACCO: This is a new edition of the booklet that was in great demand last year. It has been completely revised to cover all types of tobacco and all tobacco growing districts in the country. It includes as well a valuable section on sand drown.

BETTER TRUCK CROPS: This 48-page booklet deals with the cultivation and fertilization of the principal truck crops. Each crop is treated separately and information on seeding, varieties and proper fertilization is given for each crop.

BETTER POTATOES: Methods of seeding, planting, cultivation and fertilization are discussed in this 48-page booklet. The various potato-growing regions of the country are treated separately making this an unusually comprehensive work.

Any or all of the above booklets will be sent free upon request to any reader of BETTER CROPS. If, after reading your copy, you desire more for educational work, we shall be glad to furnish them as long as our supply lasts.

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Why We Should Diversify Crops

By *Paul Tabor*

Associate Professor Farm Crops
Georgia State College of Agriculture

¶This is the second of the prize editorials contributed by our readers.

THE diversification of crops tends to minimize the fluctuations of over-expansion and depression in farming. When times are bad for the farmer I always remember the case of George Langford, Madison County, Georgia. I have heard him tell that his best years of farming came when cotton was selling at five cents per pound. By making his living at home, and having some corn, fruit, meat and butter to sell, he managed to clear about five hundred dollars per year when the neighbors, growing only cotton, failed to break even. The five hundred dollars went for land at five to ten dollars per acre, the value of which is now five to ten times as much. Starting as a hired man receiving less than a dollar per day, Mr. Langford has acquired about a thousand acres of land, and the money for all of it has come from the sale of diversified products. I don't believe there has been a year that Mr. Langford has failed to make money. Some years his neighbors making good cotton crops and getting high prices would make more money, but they never made it as consistently as Mr. Langford did.

Diversification is a means of soil protection. Vandiver Jenkins a young farmer of the same county, uses a three year rotation of cotton, small grain and corn. His neighbors grow cotton on their best lands until there is apparent deterioration and then change to one of the other crops for a year or two. Mr. Jenkins' farm is one of the show places of the county. It is getting better each year, while those about it are gradually going down or barely holding their own in spite of a considerable amount of commercial fertilizer used each season.

Diversification of crops fosters the philosophy of conservative progress. With less money during the boom times than the one crop

farmers, there is less temptation to speculate. Conservatism becomes second nature with the man who diversifies his crops. On the other hand, diversification insures more money during hard times. This encourages constant progress. Oftentimes a small amount of money will do more in hard times than a large amount in good times. This is especially true in buying land. The case of Mr. Langford comes back to me. He never went in debt to any extent in buying his land. He nearly always purchased it when prices were low. During periods of high prices he seemed ultra-conservative, during periods of depression he has always been constructive.

Diversification of crops reduces the number of failures during periods of extreme depressions. About once in a generation a period comes that tests the value of different systems of farming to the limit. We are passing through one in Georgia at this time. Over much of the state the deflation of prices and the boll weevil came on us at the same time. It has been very much like twin cyclones. Prices and production of our principal crop were slashed in half. Through this trying time the farmers practicing difersification have fared much better than those depending on cotton alone. George O'Kelly of Clarke County is already re-established on a firm basis with his diversified program, while many of his neighbors specializing in cotton have been unfortunate in losing their farms. Before the depression, these neighbors were making money much faster than Mr. O'Kelly. These periods of extreme depression seem to be one of the greatest risks in farming. In the community where I was reared one of the oldest citizens recalls that every farmer there who has specialized in cotton production alone for thirty years has been forced to give up his land. County Agent L. S. Watson of Morgan County, Georgia, long associated with the stress of the first five years of boll weevil infestation says the man with the greatest diversification is the one that has suffered least.

Diversification stimulates the fullest development in a farmer. A specialist in a certain crop learns the requirements of this crop and is not stimulated to further study. Oftentimes he has a portion of the year left for idleness. Very few people can resist the temptation of loafing, and loafing rarely adds to a man's development. The farmer with diversified crops must learn the requirements of several crops instead of one. His work too, is extended over the year to a greater extent. Nearly always, livestock are kept on a diversified farm to a greater extent than on other farms. These present additional problems requiring time and thought. Greater development is thus forced on the farmer who diversified. With increased development there usually comes the ambition for still greater development, and shortly it is translated into reality.

Why Should We Diversify?

By J. W. Firor
County Agent, Athens, Ga.

(Here is another point of view on the same subject which the judges deemed worthy of publication.

May be we should not. If by "we" reference is made to the farmers individually, and by "diversify," to the growing of several leaders as cash or market crops, then it seems that experience has demonstrated that we should specialize instead of diversifying.

With over 12 years experience in agricultural extension work in nearly two hundred counties, I am

prepared to state that of the many farmers with whom I am acquainted and with whom I have worked, the outstanding, successful group is made up of specialists and not of diversifiers.

I know highly successful farmers, who have specialized in dairying, or sweet potato production, or the growing of nursery plants, or cotton, Of all those farming less than 400 acres, I know but one, who has made a success of growing three or more cash crops, counting trucking as one crop.

Each crop grown as a cash crop, if produced with energy and in sufficient amounts to justify marketing, requires special knowledge, special skill and efficient equipment. Therefore, diversification on average size farms means expensive production and unusual hazard.

On farms large enough to justify a skilled manager for each leading crop grown, and large enough to wear out a variety of machinery diversification is practicable; still on second thought these units would be specialized units after all.

The actual experiences of a number of farmers points the way to some worth while conclusions.

Let us look at the development that has taken place in the southern part of Georgia since the boll weevil arrived in 1915. Prior to that year, this large section produced cotton almost exclusively.

The boll weevil wiped out the sea island cotton industry apparently forever, and put a crimp in upland cotton production. Farmers turned to diversification in this emergency. The cotton acreage was cut materially—in half of the counties from 25 to 75%. The acres released were planted to peanuts, sweet potatoes, watermelons, pecans, peaches, cane for syrup, truck crops, tobacco, and feed for livestock. This is what they understood by diversification and this is what they did.

What has been the result? Are these farmers still diversifying after a decade? No, they are specializing. In some counties cotton production has been reestablished. In some ten or fifteen other counties farmers are now specializing in producing bright leaf tobacco. The growth of the tobacco industry has been from less than 1,000 pounds in 1914 to over 30,000,000 pounds in 1924 worth six and a half million dollars. From Montezuma to Macon, a distance of fifty miles, there is almost a solid peach orchard today. Albany section expanded its pecans, Cairo, its syrup, Tifton, its early vegetable plants, and Moultrie, its watermelons.

Through actual experiences, in the schools of hard knocks, these farmers have become specialists, while the section as a whole has become diversified, *fortunately so*. This diversification by communities, counties and sections has given southern Georgia an agricultural strength undreamed of ten years ago. In 1923 when the cotton production was very low, peaches, pecans and sweet potatoes proved profitable. In 1924 when peaches and pecans did not produce any net profits, cotton and tobacco brought prosperity to the section.

At the beginning of this discussion, I stated that specialists in farming were outstanding and successful farmers. Of this group those who have supported and abetted their specialities with secondary, and complimentary crops are at the top. Those who had a leader, and at the same time used other crops to round out their farming operations, so as to use, to the fullest, their animal and man labor, to permit of rotation and upbuilding of soils, to use their implements and machinery the most number of days possible, to grow food and feed crops needed for farm, and to utilize any part of a crop, that would go to waste otherwise, —these are the leaders among the successful farmers.

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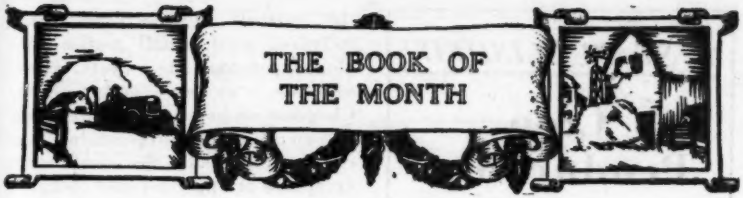

Practical Science

Crop and Soil Management, by J. F. Cox. Published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York, 1924.

Dedicated to the new generation of American farmers, "Crop Production and Soil Management" has given to this great class of students, young and old, a valuable compilation of farm experience, experimental and practical.

The author, Professor J. F. Cox, head of Farm Crops at the Michigan Agricultural College and Experiment Station, has placed between the covers of his book some 500 pages of interestingly written and fully illustrated information pertaining to the economical production of crops and the maintenance of soil fertility. He has drawn heavily on the mass of research and investigational work, but only as found applicable in farm practice. The pages are rich in experience derived from the farmer's fields.

In the selection and presentation of the contents of this volume, the author has had in mind the fact that the "ultimate consumer" of his subject matter is the man on the farm, whether received through the medium of a instructor, a county agent or from the printed page. He has met the prime requirements of the great majority of students—both on the farm and in the classroom—that the teachings be scientific first and practical always.

As the title suggests, the book considers the growing crops and the handling of soils with the great objective of reducing costs, improving quality of products and maintaining fertility. The problems of crops and soils are treated, not as separate and distinct farm problems but, rather as interlocking and interdependent considerations in the business of farming.

The volume is divided into two parts. The first deals with the major "operations" of producing crops and maintaining fertility; the second deals with the specific operations or steps in growing each of the crops common to the corn-belt and northern states. This is a not illogical arrangement since it takes the reader from general to specific or from specific to general as his problem may require.

To illustrate, chapter 7, "Maintain the Fertility of the Soil," outlines and discusses the general schemes of soil maintenance and building, not from the standpoint of any one crop or section, but in its broadest sense. Then, in Part Two, information and recommendations are given as to the best soil management practices for the specific crop under consideration and for the kind of soil.

Some of the major operations included in Part One are: choice of crops, testing of seed, soil preparation, rotation-planning, fertility maintenance, planting methods, weed insect and disease control and harvesting and storing of crops. These chapters, in themselves, constitute a well-ordered general course in the fundamentals of economical crop growing.

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the cornbelt and northern states including corn, small grains, sorghums, potatoes, sugar-beets, beans, soybeans, clovers and alfalfa. Chapters on hay and pasture crops and on conducting crop exhibits and contests complete the work with exception of appendix and index.

The chapter in all cases is developed "chronologically" in so far as possible or feasible. For example, chapter 14, "Corn Growing," classifies and presents the subject matter in the order in which each operation or step is performed. Selection, care and testing of seed, preparation and fertilization of the soil, planting and cultivation, harvesting and utilization of the crop —these are considered as the successive and essential operations in the best production of corn.

Under the heading "General Information" a part of each chapter is given to the many interesting and valuable facts which afford the reader a more general knowledge of the crop than merely that of producing it. Origin, importance, distribution and market classification of crops are included as part of the general information.

A new and very useful feature in the make-up of the book is the "community survey" or study given at the end of each chapter. This is in accord with the modern and most effective methods of teaching i. e., by projects or problems. County agents, instructors, extension and community workers will find the surveys and studies outlined a suitable basis for development of project work.—*H. W. Warner, Iowa State College of Agriculture.*

In answering advertisements appearing in BETTER CROPS, *you will do us a great favor by mentioning the fact that you saw the advertisement in* BETTER CROPS.

By Ted Butlar

BETTER CROPS' Washington Correspondent

Everything looks encouraging on the horizon for the coming crop year, says the annual outlook report of the U. S. D. A., in its comparison of prospects with the past few years. General business prosperity during the first half of 1925 will maintain the domestic demand for farm products, it is felt, and should stimulate the demand for the better grades of certain products.

The foreign market for most American farm products promises to be as good at least as during the past year, Federal officials conclude, and the foreign situation is further brightened by the fact that European economic conditions are on the mend. The short grain crops in 1924 coupled with high purchasing power in industrial centers and better facilities for financing imports are favorable for continued sales of American wheat and rye, at least until the next harvest. Despite increased prices, the demand for American pork products in Germany has continued strong.

The wheat belt has been the bright spot in American agriculture during the past year. In the opinion of Government experts, if there is an average world crop of wheat in 1925, the present high price cannot be expected although prices are expected to be better than in 1923. Growers of hard spring wheat are cautioned by the Department of Agriculture not to increase production above domestic requirements. The Department contends that if the spring wheat acreage is held to that of last year, and an average yield is secured, the production of hard spring wheat should about equal domestic requirements.

It is hard to see continued gloom in the livestock after studying the outlook report, even though cattle raisers are entering upon the fourth year of short profits. Beef cattle prices should average somewhat higher than last year, according to the report and in other quarters there is evidence that a serious cattle shortage faces the country because of forced liquidation of breeding stock for a few years. This later situation, say experienced cattle men, will result in much better prices.

Hog producers, the report points out, entered 1925 with 18 per cent fewer hogs than a year ago and there is every indication that prices during the next 18 months will be higher than at any time since 1920. Six to eight million fewer pigs will be born this spring than last. Fewer sows will farrow next fall than last fall if producers respond to the unfavorable relation of corn to hog prices as they have done in the past, it concludes.

We have heard a lot of talk these days about there being too many farmers in the United States. Much of this discussion has terminated as agriculture gets back to a uniformly better condition. But Dr. H. C. Taylor, Chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, comes forward with a coldblooded consideration of the subject on the

basis that too many farmers are a detriment to the nation. "In 1820," he says, "approximately 87 per cent of those engaged in gainful occupations in the United States were in agriculture. The percentage engaged in agriculture in 1920 was 26. This movement of country to city went on gradually throughout one hundred years, but between 1910 and 1920 the movement was more rapid than in any period since 1870."

This movement, Dr. Taylor contends, should be looked upon as desirable within certain limits. He touches a resounding note when he concludes; "The danger in the movement is that the process will be selective, taking the best stock from the rural community and leaving the weaker elements of the population on the farms to the detriment not only of agriculture, but of the nation as a whole. The movement should operate in such a way as to leave in the country those elements of our rural population best suited to an efficient type of farming, a higher standard of living on the farm and in the rural community, and a standard of rural citizenship commensurate with the needs of our democracy."

Leon Estabrook, veteran statistician in the Federal Department of Agriculture with an international reputation as an expert on crop statistics, has been appointed by the Interantional Institute of Agriculture at Rome as Director of the World Census of Agriculture to be made by the Institute in 1930. This census will be the first effort ever made to inventory the world's agriculture, and is expected to yield valuable statistical data that will enable the leading agricultural countries of the world to organize their production of food and fibers to meet world demands.

In 1923 Mr. Estabrook was loaned by the agricultural department, where he was chairman of the Crop Reporting Board, to the Argentine Republic for the purpose of developing a crop reporting system and statistical methods there. He then made a statistical survey of agriculture in South America for the Federal Department. No sooner had this work been completed than he was called to take over the important assignment in Rome.

The American consumer is eating more meat. Compared with the calendar year of 1923 the figures for last year show an increase of almost 1,000,000 animals slaughtered under Federal inspection, there being a total of 79,432,614 animals slaughtered in 1924. The increases for cattle, calves and sheep approximate half a million in each case, while there is a decrease in the number of swine. It will be recalled that the swine slaughtered for 1923 was several millions higher than any previous year, so that the 1924 total, although slightly less, is still close to the record.

Corn Champion's Success

(*From page* 9)

pounds per acre of 0–10–10 factory mixed, between the rows with a hoe wheat drill when the corn was about ten inches high. This gives a good yield of highly finished grain and I believe is a test which will respond on almost all types of soils that compare favorably with central and southern Indiana.

"It should be kept in mind, however, by the successful corn grower that at no time should he ever miss the opportunity to plow under some kind of cover crop, manure or anything possible to maintain humus in his soil.

"I also breed and raise Reid's Yellow Dent Corn which I like very much for lighter soils and late planting as well as for feeding purposes. I operate a 400 acre farm and aim to raise 100 acres of corn each year. All corn raised on this farm is either used for seed purposes or fed to livestock."

Meet Laredo

(*From page 21*)

quantity of Laredo bean seed could be obtained at twenty dollars per bushel.

By taking advantage of the situation, several Georgia farmers made downright "killings" growing Laredo seed. A few random examples will be cited. A college student planted a bushel on nine acres. His summer vacation gave him ample time to make and gather the crop. He harvested 140 bushels from the nine acres, which brought in a gross return of $1,100. He sold the greater part of his beans at eight dollars per bushel. A lady harvested the seed from three or four acres and sold $600 worth. One farmer reports a crop that brought him $3,000. These examples and others that might be cited, show that those who have been growing Laredoes have received rewards somewhat more tangible than an expression of thanks from their neighbors.

Up until the present nothing has been said that would indicate that the Laredo is a valuable addition to the soybean varieties of the country, unless the high prices paid for seed indicate such. Its history in the United States has been spectacular and for that reason interesting. The unusually high prices paid for Laredo seed and the resultant speculation may not be for the best. Only time can tell. However, the writer knows of nothing that will bring about such an increase in the supply of seed of a newly introduced plant as will a high price and active demand for such seed.

NOW that we have seen what might be called the frenzied finance side of the Laredo business, let us examine it and see what it promises to Agriculture. The man who will grow Laredoes in the years to come will be little concerned as to whether the seed sold for one or one hundred dollars per bushel during their early days in this country. He will be vitally interested in what they will do in the field.

Soybean culture in the United States may be said to have begun in the South. In the Northern part of the Cotton Belt and the

A field of Laredo soy beans near the blooming stage.

territory immediately North of the Cotton belt the Mammoth Variety of soybeans was widely grown before much thought was given to soybeans in other parts of the country. The Mammoth produced good yields of seed but the seed being large it took a considerable quantity to plant an acre. Its coarseness of stem was objected to. It was soon seen that if a variety having finer stems could be found that it would have advantages over the Mammoth. If such a variety should yield more than the Mammoth it would seem that the perfect soybean variety for the South would be found. Just such a variety was the Otootan. The early history of the Otootan, by the way, is an exact parallel of that of the Laredo.

THAT the Otootan was not a perfect variety (none are) was soon apparent. It made hay enough to satisfy anyone and the hay was of good quality. Its two faults were lateness and its poor yields of seed. Being late amounted to little in the Cotton Belt, but was a serious fault in some of the old Mammoth territory. Its shyness in producing seed was a disadvantage to all, and soon there were growers who were ready to trade for a variety producing a little less hay, if it was necessary, but one that would produce at least fair yields of seed. A variety that had many of the good points of the Otootan, but which was early in maturing and was a good producer of seed was not long in appearing. It was the Laredo.

The Laredo is a fine stemmed leafy variety. The branches arising from the main stem grow upward and attain a height almost equal to that of the main stem. In habit of growth it is almost a semi-vine. However, lodging is not excessive except on very rich land. It bears both purple and white flowers. The seed are black and very small, 466,500 to the bushel.

It can be classed as medium early. It matures for hay in September and the seed ripen in late September or early October.

In the following table are given the average yields of hay and grain of the three leading hay varieties of soybeans at the Georgia State College of Agriculture. For the sake of comparison and to show why the Georgia farmers are replacing cowpeas with soybeans the yields of the three leading varieties of cowpeas are included.

Seven Years Average Yield of Three Leading Varieties of Soybeans and Three Leading Varieties of Cowpeas, at the Georgia State College of Agriculture.

Variety	Ave. Yield of Hay (in tons per acre)	Ave. Yield of Grain (in bushels per acre)
Otootan soybeans.	1.52	9.21
Laredo Soybeans.	1.57	18.12
Mammoth Soybeans	1.40	15.79
Brabham cowpeas	1.03	6.30
Iron cowpeas	1.00	8.77
Whipoorwill cowpeas	.82	8.71

That the results have been favorable to the Laredo at the Mississippi Station would certainly be inferred from the attitude of the Agricultural authorities of that State. In listing the services performed by the Experiment Station for the farmers of Mississippi, the work with Laredo soybeans is specially mentioned.

The results of the Georgia College trials show that the Laredo has yielded more hay than the Otootan. This is at variance with results obtained at other stations, and the general belief held by farmers. However, no one believes that the Otootan will make much more hay than the Laredo, and there isn't the slightest doubt but that the Laredo is far and away the best yielder of grain.

A fact that is of great importance in certain sections of the South is that the Laredo is resistant to

Rootknot and Wilt. In areas where these two diseases are prevalent non-resistant varieties of soybeans and cowpeas are very often completely ruined by them.

THE other end of the seed price has been purposely withheld until now. It is true that $12.50 is a high price for a bushel of soybean seed, but the farmer who has seed to buy is not so much concerned with price per bushel as he is with price per acre. This spring seed of the Mammoth variety sold for as much as $3.00 per bushel. One bushel of Mammoth seed will plant about two acres, one bushel of Laredo seed will plant eight to ten. It will not take much figuring to demonstrate that the price of seed necessary to seed an acre was about the same for each of the two varieties. In this connection it should be mentioned that Otootan seed sailed skyward this spring, selling for ten and twelve dollars per bushel. A bushel of Otootan seed will plant six to eight acres.

When writing about a single variety of one of our Agricultural plants it is hard not to leave the impression that the variety in question is "the one best variety." This the writer hopes he has not done. The Laredo is a variety of soybeans that possesses undoubted merit. If the writer may be allowed to make a suggestion it would be that the Laredo be tried out even in territory that is considerably north of the Cotton Belt, as it will mature for hay if not for grain, in sections far above the Cotton States.

It Didn't Work

E	D	I	C	T	▒	R	A	N	E	E
N	▒	E	A	R	▒	A	S	H	▒	X
S	E	▒	N	O	R	M	S	▒	D	C
U	R	N	▒	T	A	P	▒	H	I	E
E	D	E	N	▒	I	▒	N	O	E	L
▒	▒	A	E	O	L	I	A	N	▒	▒
T	Y	P	E	▒	I	▒	B	E	G	S
S	A	T	▒	O	N	E	▒	Y	A	K
A	M	▒	O	R	G	A	N	▒	G	A
R	▒	F	R	A	▒	T	A	M	▒	T
S	N	A	I	L	▒	S	P	O	R	E

This is the answer to the cross word puzzle published in our last issue. One reader, M. A. Thorfinnson of Hallock, Minnesota, sent in the correct solution.

Ye Ed. has decided that cross word puzzles are not very popular with our readers. He finds, moreover that editing them correctly is a job beyond his capacity. After taking the most particular pains to have the one that appeared last month correct in every respect, something slipped somewhere and the definition of 30 horizontal appeared as "a wind" when it should have been "a unit."

Since Ye Ed. abominates errors of this kind in the puzzles he undertakes and since he does not seem able to avoid them in the ones he prints, he has decided to leave the publication of cross word puzzles to the experts in that field.

Jeff

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Prices and the Farm Problem

(*From page 13*)

(1) Farmers are more vociferous but perhaps less persistent and insistent in their demand for public help than producers in certain other industries which come readily to mind. This is due, in part, to the nature of the farm business which requires relatively small units of organization and entails consequent difficulty in massing those large resources to the support of a cause or the vindication of a principle, which, of course, are at the command of industries possessing the advantages of large scale production and potentialities for monopoly.

(2) Farm products are produced, not in a continuous stream which can speedily be augmented or diminished, but seasonally. Producers of farm products, therefore, are able to make very slow and uncertain adjustments to changes in price. And producers who are adversely affected by price changes suffer about in proportion to the speed with which they can adjust output. Who comes last in this list? Right the first time.

(3) Our consumption of the necessities of life varies much less with given changes in price than is the case with luxuries. Hence, there is much less opportunity to turn over an excess of a "necessity" through stimulating demand than is the case with a luxury. In case of the "over production" of a necessity, therefore, what happens? Yes, the price falls, and great will be the fall thereof. Among those who produce "necessities," who comes first in the list? You are one hundred per cent so far. Try this one.

(4) You can't have your cake and eat it, too. True. Equally true that you can't eat your cake unless you have it. Production precedes consumption. If you produce the entire output of a commodity, you have to do some guessing: (a) How much it will cost you per unit to produce so many units. You have to guess because you can't be sure what the prices of your materials, etc., are to be. (b) How many units can be sold at a price to cover this estimated cost, including risk, plus that reasonable profit so often talked about and so seldom seen?

But suppose you produce only a very small fraction of the total supply of a commodity? You have to make the same two guesses, but now enormously complicated by the fact that you have to gamble not only on yourself, but on the thousands of other producers as well.

Now suppose that the success or failure of your venture depends, in addition, on whether it rains on the fourth of July and snow is on the ground at Christmas.

At this point you quit. The odds are too heavy. But right here, approximately, is where farming begins. In the rank of possibilities for controlling the amount of output, and the conditions of production, with the consequent power of predicting the returns to be expected from his efforts, does the farmer stand at the foot of the list? The ayes have it.

ALL roads which point to a solution of the "farm problem" lead ultimately to price stabilization. But price stabilization implies intelligent production, efficient marketing, and rational consumption. Under the fog of optimism engendered by rising prices, it behooves us, therefore, to keep these fundamental propositions in view:

1. That the development of farm organizations under intelligent leadership is essential to place the agricultural industry on a parity with

others in vigor of thought and unity of action.

2. That economic research must be the starting point in solving the complex problems of agricultural production, marketing and finance. Much valuable work is being done by the government, by universities and agricultural colleges, and by private agencies, but special aspects of many problems are best handled, and some can only be handled, through scientific analysis undertaken by farm organizations which are actually functioning in the production or marketing process.

3. That agricultural depression finds no panacea in high prices; that the sense of security which is stimulated by rising prices is one of the worst dangers in the situation; that the only real approach to a solution of the farm problem is through intelligent organization and careful study, with a canny eye on the aphorism that "history repeats itself."

Jardine Comes Back Home

(*From page 14*)

as a helper on a dairy farm. Following this extremely rugged background, young Jardine entered the Agricultural College of Utah at the age of 21 and was graduated in 1904. He paid part of his way through college by teaching in nearby grade schools, and after graduation had done so well that he was requested to continue as an instructor in agriculture.

It was in 1907 that he came to the Federal agricultural department as assistant cerealist. In this position he travelled extensively in the grain growing states of the West and came in direct contact with the problems over a wide area. One year he spent in studying Canadian agriculture. When he left Washington in 1910 to head the agronomy work at the Kansas State Agricultural college, he was recognized as an authority on grain crops.

The new Secretary enjoyed a steady and successful career after he went to Kansas. Three years after he went there he was made dean of agriculture. In five more years he was made President of the institution and relinquished this position with an indefinite leave of absence when President Coolidge selected him as the best fitted man in the United States to undertake the arduous duties as Secretary of Agriculture.

DURING the World War Dr. Jardine had charge of agricultural production in Kansas and won a national reputation for his results in this field. Besides his college connections he has been enlisted in other agricultural capacities, among them being agricultural advisor to the American Bankers Association and a lecturer at the national school for the training of chamber of commerce secretaries. He long has maintained an enviable reputation as a writer and lecturer on agricultural subjects.

It was last summer that Dr. Jardine won particular prominence from a national standpoint. The McNary-Haugen bill had been introduced in Congress designed to set up an export corporation for the handling of surplus products. The middle west, practically to a man, supported the measure. But to Dr. Jardine this piece of legislation appeared to be unsound with the thought that it would work permanent hardships on American agriculture. Being of a positive nature, he launched a bitter attack on the proposal and was largely responsible in turning the state of Kansas against it as being fundamentally unsound.

Weevils You Count

(*From page 7*)

a hundred hibernation cages with screen walls which are weevil proof. Each cage is of standard size and constructed in exactly the same way as all the rest. In the fall various kinds of hibernation shelter are placed in the cages, materials which weevils ordinarily use as cover for the winter. Included in the list of materials used are oat straw, cotton stalks, corn stalks, chips, Spanish moss, and many other things found about fields and woods.

Starting in early September, weevils are collected in the cotton fields and placed in the cages at weekly intervals until killing frosts cut off the supply. In other words, weevils are put to bed in the cages at just about the same rate as they turn in when free to do as they please in the fields. Usually about 500 weevils are tucked away in each cage, and by the time winter sets in there will be somewhere between 35,000 and 50,000 in the entomological bunk houses. So far as his wintering conditions are concerned, the shut-in weevil does not know he is in a cage. But in the spring when he emerges from his long sleep he finds his liberty very much limited, for he must stay and be observed and counted.

The first weevils come out in the cages in the locality of Tallulah about the first of March, and they continue crawling out of the "hay" until the last drowsy ones yawn and begin looking for breakfast early in July. Most of them come out in May. However, it has been found possible by correlating the amount of emergence, in March and April with the weather during these months, to predict roughly what the total emergence will be. The emergence in the cages shows what it will be in the same latitude outside if the weather has been the same in the region considered.

The main purpose of the cages is to provide detailed information on the relative efficiency of the different kinds of hibernation shelter, but they have great value in giving information on emergence of weevils.

THE entomologists are very particular to say that they can not give exact information on what the weevils may be expected to do in the way of raising families and damaging the cotton crop. "We can only predict," says B. R. Coad, in charge of the Tallulah station, "in a very general way the abundance of weevils when they come out in the spring. All of the records are made in one district and can be applied to other districts only by

Bungalows for the boll weevil on the Department of Agriculture Farm in Louisiana. Here weevils are kept over winter and counted as they emerge in the spring. It's valuable information.

comparing the weather experienced. The emergence is not at all a positive criterion to the final damage to the crop, but has many important bearings on the control program. It does mean that in a year of fairly light emergence, such as last spring, the damage to the 'bottom' crop will be definitely reduced. At the same time, the final injury to the crop is very largely a question of rapidity of multiplication of these weevils, and that in turn depends on the rainfall during June, July and August. Light emergence means that the farmer has the advantage at the start of the fight, but unfavorable weather may offset this advantage."

The estimates of the weevil situation have been made with this cage-collected information every year, beginning with 1916. Last year the records showed the months of March and April were unusually cool. In spite of the cool weather, however, the percentage of weevils emerging was greater than in 1918 or 1919, and nearly as great as in 1917 and 1920. There were plenty of weevils to produce normal damage to King Cotton, if the summer weather had not been what it turned out to be.

Apparently counting weevils is a help in sizing up the situation, but the farmer will be unwise to count too much on this counting, especially when it shows the weevil is down on his luck. The weather man may deal him some good cards.

MOST of the information on the coming weevil army is yet to be obtained, but observations made last fall and during the winter give something to work on. In spite of the dry, sunny summer of 1924 large numbers of weevils went into hibernation in at least half of the belt. There has been some cold weather this winter that probably gave many of the sleepers a jolt, but the counts in March and later will best tell the tale. And then there is the weather to gamble on again. Many planters, probably half of them, still insist on gambling more than they need to. They remember last summer and the weevil of worry is not for them. But professional observers, among them the entomologists, say the pest has not been permanently impaired.

A great deal of progress has been made in fighting the weevil, although the favorable season of 1924 may cause a slump. The damage done to the crop last year was only 5 or 6 per cent of the damage done in 1923 in some of the States and ranged up to about 68 per cent in Mississippi. An association devoted to fighting the boll weevil conducted a questionnaire and found that as yet only a few farmers buy calcium arsenate ahead of the season so as to be ready to dust the pest into subjection. In most sections farmers gave nearly all of the credit for favorable results last year to the weather, although in practically all localities some of them recognized the importance of poisoning, fertilization and of improved cultural practices. More poisoning would have been done last year if the weather had been rainy.

GEORGIA is said to be the most progressive and best organized state for the weevil fight. In this state and in North Carolina about 50 per cent of the growers are said to have used poison last year, or prepared to do so had it been necessary. In the other States, with the exception of one or two, from 15 to 20 per cent of the planters prepared to use or did use poison dust. One of the leaders in the campaign has said that if all cotton States would take hold vigorously, with what is known of control methods, the problem would be practically solved.

In Georgia it is estimated that

75 per cent of the cotton farmers last year practiced destroying cotton stalks to reduce the hibernation shelter. In some of the other States it is thought half of the farmers are now following this practice. A considerable percentage throughout the South have adopted quick-maturing varieties, along with better fertilization to get ahead of the insect, and close cultivation.

At the same time scientists are not relaxing their efforts to find better means to beat the weevil. Among other things they are making a thorough study of the constituents of the cotton plant which serve to attract the insect. Once they are well understood, the villain, B. Weevil, may be easily lured to his destruction—perhaps.

Raspberry Anthracnose

(*From page 11*)

thracnose control is to avoid this practice. All of the old cane that comes with the plant should be removed at planting time by cutting off the stub just above the crown. The entire plant is covered with soil and there are no stubs left to spread the disease to the new plants.

In the case of blackberries the plants are usually pruned so as to leave two or three inches of the old cane above the ground, but if a large number of the plants show anthracnose lesions they should be treated the same as raspberries.

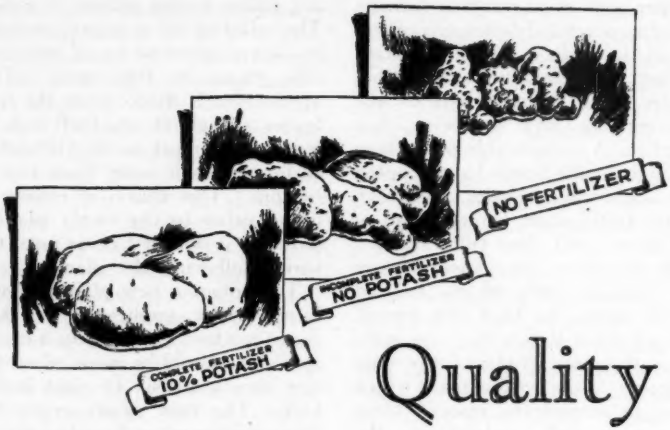
Other preventative measures, along the line of general sanitation, include keeping the rows well cultivated and free from grass and weeds.

THE only sure way of controlling this disease, however, is by careful and thorough spraying. The most important application is the delayed dormant spray of liquid lime sulfur one gallon to ten gallons of water. The addition of a casein spreader has been shown to be of considerable value in this spray. This application is made when the first leaves are about one-half inch in length and must cover the entire surface of each cane, from top to bottom. This spray, of course, is of no value to the newly planted patch as it does not come until the spring following the planting.

To protect a new planting from infection, an application of Bordeaux mixture 2–12–6, plus a casein spreader, should be made when the new shoots are six to eight inches high. The next spring apply the delayed dormant as described above, followed by a Bordeaux spray about a week before blossoming. Beginning with the third season, use only the delayed dormant spray each year. This system of spraying will protect the patch sufficiently so that the yield or the life time of the patch will not be seriously affected, while at the same time it avoids the danger of injury to fruit and foliage, that so often results from summer sprays of either Bordeaux or lime sulfur in this region. Work in this and other states indicates that the injury from summer sprays is often very serious in this locality.

When it comes to cleaning up an old infected patch, it is often necessary to use a summer spray of 2–6–50 Bordeaux, when the new shoots are six to eight inches high, in addition to the delayed dormant spray and in this case injury to fruit and foliage may be reduced to a minimum by using a 45 degree angle nozzle and applying the spray to the young canes and the base of the fruiting canes only.

In any case it pays to spray. Even if one crop of fruit is sacrificed, thorough spraying for one season may save the patch. On the other hand, permitting the disease to grow for one season may mean the weakening of the entire patch to such an extent that it cannot again return to a fruitful state.



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How Effective Club Work Can Be Done

(*From page 5*)

community. Though dairying and poultry raising are the chief courses of income, the analysis showed that there were only four hogs in the community and that there was a great deal of skimmed milk going to waste, and that there was very little canned goods put up from the fruits and vegetables grown in the orchards and gardens of the community, and that there was practically no neatness and taste shown in the clothing worn by the women and girls of the community.

To our surprise instead of the analysis showing the need of better dairy sires, better poultry houses, more culling and balanced rations, it showed that the great needs in the community were for pigs to consume the skimmed milk, for arrangements to be made for putting up more canned products and for giving lessons in sewing and selection of materials. In making out the program of work with these same three leading citizens it was decided to enlist the boys and girls into the service of hog raising, canning and sewing. The parents, club leaders, county and home demonstration agents with what help we could secure from outside forces got behind these club members and helped them put the work over.

When this plan was presented to the people of the community at a regular meeting they heartily agreed to it and promised their support. As a result every girl in the community between the ages of twelve and eighteen years of age joined the club, and every boy in the community between the ages of ten and eighteen with one exception joined the club. This gave us a membership of six girls and seven boys.

On May 21st, 1924, we organized these thirteen club members into the Deutschburg Community Joint Club. This club met once each month and the boys and girls met at the same time in the same room in the same building with the same presiding officers. We had a *Joint Club*. All seven of the boys were present at each and every joint meeting. All seven of the boys joined the pig club and each one of them bought a registered Big

The gilt that won first place at the Deutschburg Community Fair was raised by a club boy.

Bone Poland China pig. In order to make a well rounded program of work as was suggested by the Swine Specialist, Mr. A. L. Ward, of the Extension Department of the Texas A. & M. College, each of the seven boys built pastures and shelter for their pigs. And the third project was to raise feed for these pigs. Each of the seven boys planted an acre of feed stuff for his pig making three projects with the pigs as a basis.

On September 18th, each of these seven boys brought his pig to the Deutschburg Community Fair and also an exhibit of his acre of feed stuff. Each of the seven boys have turned in complete record books of their work.

ALL six of the club girls were present at joint meetings with few exceptions. All these girls joined the poultry club. Each secured three settings of pure bred eggs and hatched them under hens borrowed from their mothers. These girls had the entire care of these eggs and chicks. They kept a complete record of how many hatched, how many were sold, how many they are keeping for breeding stock for next year, how many died and the amount of feed consumed. Comfortable houses were built for their poultry. Each of the six girls exhibited a pen of their poultry at the Deutschburg Community Fair in September. They also carried a complete exhibit of required sewing, food preservation and home improvement. All six of the girls sent in complete record books and histories of their work. Each of these girls planted a garden so they would have something to can.

There was a lack of interest taken in gardens and canned goods by the parents in the community, but by using poultry as the productive project we succeeded in getting each girl to plant a small garden, out of which they canned 279 jars. This amount was more than the entire community was in the habit of putting up. Improving the quality of poultry was the main project, but it brought about what was most needed, more canned vegetables and better workmanship and selection of clothing.

THE Deutschburg Community is not an exceptional community in which to work. Neither is it favorably located nor are the people peculiarly adapted for doing joint club work. They are a class of hard working people, most of them owing a good deal on their farms. We had difficulties to overcome and some we did not overcome. We would have had 100% of the boys in the club if one of the farmers had not refused to let his boy join. Once when the occasion demanded, one of the club leaders took her own car went out to the hay field and brought one of the members in off the mowing machine in order that this girl might get the benefits of the joint meeting.

In order to create interest among kiddies who live ten miles from any town and very seldom get out the Deutschburg adult community club arranged to furnish a gallon of ice cream and cones for their boys and girls at each of their monthly joint club meetings. The fact that we were helping the parents help their children do a definite piece of work was the thing that went such a long way toward the success of the club. Our monthly meetings were not just a parliamentary form or a place for some yelling and fun. We got right down to business. You see the club members did not get their record books until the close of the year's work, but each one made a book in which to keep his records and what he did each month. After the meetings were called to order each member would stand and read

what he had been doing with his projects during the month in answer to roll call. The boys would tell just how many pounds their pigs had gained that month and just what and how much they were feeding their pigs. They would report on the feed crops they were growing and about sheds and pastures they had made for their pigs, etc. The girls would give in answer to roll call the number of chicks hatched, what they had canned that month and what sewing they had done.

The County and Home Demonstration Agents also had a note book in which they took down the reports as they were given out and would ask questions on certain parts of the work, and would assist and give advise about any changes that ought to be made with reference to rations, etc. By the time we got through with the roll-call the hour would be nearly gone, but we certainly had spent it profitably. Once in a while we had a little time to practice yells before serving ice cream cones, but usually we had some social matter such as a community fair or a visit of some specialist to talk about and arrange for and did not have much time for play.

Prizes valued at fifty dollars were given these club members at the Deutschburg Community Fair. We held our last joint meeting with this club in November, at which time all record books were filled out and stories of the various projects were handed in. These records and stories with the secretaries' report were sent in to the judges of the Holland prize. As a Christmas present we received notice that the Deutschburg Community had won third highest place in the state and was rewarded a hundred dollar prize.

This year's work in the Deutschburg Community was a big constructive demonstration. It demon-

(*turn to page 48*)

About Ourselves

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By Proxy

(*From page 4*)

sufficient of the heavenly Virus to carry us over another week.

My cook, trained to grille the garlic with gas that some unseen genius generated, is lost when the gas goes off. There is a coal stove. Yes, but who will get the coal? Have we some arrangement for automatically bringing in the coal? Or must one soil one's lily white fingers by lugging it in oneself?

Hully Gee!

To what are we coming, and to which?

ONLY yesterday, George Baldwin, who farms the forty northwest of me, was in to complain about things in general—and Congress in particular. He asked of me, and of Divine Providence, when those blankety-blank dumb-bells in Washington were ever going to get some legislation going to help the poor farmers—George Baldwin, especially.

It seems that Baldwin had just been down to the village to haggle over a new harrow with Henry the harness-man. The price was eighty-one dollars—just thirty dollars more than the last one he bought seven years ago—and Congress was responsible, because "nearly all of that thirty dollars was *freight*, I tell you, *freight*." The farmer ought not to have to pay freight on stuff for tilling the soil—Congress ought to fix that.

When I asked him what was the matter with the old harrow he said it had "rusted itself out" and wouldn't work.

I said no more. But harrows, well cared for, do not "rust out" in seven years. The trouble was that good friend Baldwin had left his harrow in the weeds at the side of his corn field to stand the elements as best it could—for seven seasons—and now Congress should help him get another for thirty dollars less than it was worth!

What we cannot or will not do for ourselves we want others to do for us—by proxy.

I get terribly tired of this proxy stuff—it breeds indifference, lackadaisical carelessness, and dowdy decrepitude—it weakens moral fibre, saps the strength of the sinews and leaves its victim unable to cope with life's realities.

I do not for a moment advocate complete self-dependence, knowing that no one can assume full responsibility for creating everything he eats, wears and uses—we must fall back upon the rest of the world for what we need.

But my plea is that we do not depend too far—that we do enough for ourselves to keep in practice, at least.

The only time to say "Let George do it" is when your name is George—and even then change your phraseology to "*Make* George do it" and if he won't do it, overboard with him— feed his carcass to the sharks—let's sail on.

Abas! This proxy stuff!

Effective Club Work

(*From page 47*)

strated that the principles of work laid down by the Extension Department of the A. & M. College of Texas are workable, that Joint Club Work is practical, that club members can do a great piece of work if we will get behind them and work with them along business and profitable lines. Though his profession makes the farmer a little individualist, this year's work showed that if the farmers in a community realize that their community is not perfect and happiness alone is found in making the corner in which they live better, they can work together on a year's program and carry it out to completion.

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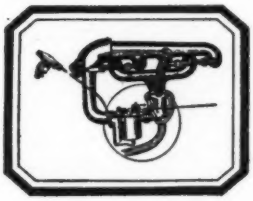

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